

# WICHITA



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The Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council  
City of Wichita  
Wichita, Kansas

Dear Council Members:

The adoption of the City's annual operating and capital budgets is the most significant, single policy decision the City Council is required to make. It will establish the framework for services the City will provide in the upcoming year. In preparing the budget, staff attempted to stimulate community comment in the 1988 budget by providing suggestions on what makes a great city. These comments and staff's proposals were carefully considered in the formulation of the 1988 budget.

In preparing the budget for City Council consideration, staff was constantly aware of the public's desire to maintain stability in public services and "hold the line" on taxes. To accomplish this objective, each of the basic services now provided by the City was carefully examined to ensure maximum efficiency and economy. Other service needs were weighed and determined within the context of desirability and ability to finance. As a result, the budget improves on present service levels while maintaining a stable tax rate and balanced financial program, but does not include any major enhancements in City programs and services.

During its discussions of the budget, the City Council has the opportunity to assess whether its policies, translated by staff into programs and services, adequately address the desires of the citizens and the challenges facing the community. The City Council should assess the City's ability and willingness to pay and examine the needs of the community to determine the fiscal policy for 1988 which will best meet the City's short and long-term strategies and goals.

## MEETING CITIZENS' NEEDS

Budget proposals/reports too often focus on aggregate projections of revenues/expenditures and services to all citizens in general without making